

LONG TERM PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE PROGRAM DIRECTIVE



For The Technical Direction Of The LTPP Program



Program Area: Seasonal Monitoring Directive Number: SM-9

Date: March 15, 1995 Supersedes: n/a

Subject: Profile Measurement Requirements at SMP Rigid Test Sections

Current LTPP seasonal monitoring guidelines require that profiler measurements be taken at each SMP site to measure the longitudinal profile at intervals throughout the year. Longitudinal profile surveys are to be conducted four times per test year for each site in non-frost areas and on five different occasions at sites in frost areas. The guidelines further state that:

"The profiler surveys are conducted with LTPP profilers following test procedures outlined by LTPP; however, additional test cycles per day are recommended for rigid pavements to look at daily profile changes. It is not" (pg. III-20, last paragraph)

The underlined portion of the sentence was included in the guidelines in order to measure potentially large differences in rigid pavement profile between the morning and afternoon hours due to daily temperature changes, and hence to provide the data that would allow researchers and analysts to assess the impact of daily temperature changes on pavement profile.

The original intent of the SMP guidelines was to make one survey per day mandatory, and additional ones optional, with the hope that two (or more) test cycles per day would be frequently performed at a few SMP rigid test sections. Unfortunately, this has not been the case -- two test cycles per day have not been performed at an SMP rigid test section to date.

The purpose of this directive is to make the conduct of two sets of profiler surveys per test day a requirement, effective immediately, at SMP rigid pavement test sections. The first survey should be performed as early in the morning as possible, while the second one should be scheduled for mid-afternoon.

Prepared by: Aramis López, Jr.

Approved by:
Charlie Churilla
Chief Pavement Performance Division